



Administrative Policies and Procedures: 11.3

Subject:	Criteria For Assessment Sites For Delinquent Youth
Authority:	TCA 37-5-106
Standards:	None

Policy Statement:

Delinquent youth committed to the Department of Children's Services will be assessed in the least restrictive environment that will allow for a thorough evaluation of the youth and family's needs and ensure the safety of the youth and community.

Purpose:

To provide appropriate assessments for youth to determine needed services in an environment that minimizes risk to the community.

Procedures:

<p>A. Assessment and placement of mentally retarded delinquent youth</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Efforts will be made to assess all delinquent youth suspected of being mentally retarded in the community. Youths who are moderately, severely, or profoundly mentally retarded or who are mildly retarded with a serious secondary handicapping condition, must be assessed in the community. 2. Placement of a mildly mentally retarded youth in a youth development center may occur only when such placement is determined to be the least restrictive environment capable of meeting the youth's treatment needs. 3. Approval of placement in a Youth Development Center must be in writing by the Commissioner or designee.
<p>B. Assessment and placement of delinquent offenders</p>	<p>Delinquent youth must be assessed in the community unless a secure placement is determined to be the least restrictive environment for assessment. Assessment in a secure placement may be appropriate if one or more of the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The youth is committed for an offense which resulted in actual or attempted injury; 2. The youth has a history of adjudicated delinquent offenses, he/she is currently determinately committed and poses a risk to the community; 3. The youth has a prior or current adjudication for a sexual offense(s) and is considered to pose a risk to the community; 4. The youth was committed for or has a record of three or more felony offenses; 5. A youth, who has runaway from a community placement and committed subsequent delinquent offenses while on runaway; 6. A youth has a history of repeated runaways from non-secure placements and

	his/her actions while on runaway are deemed to be of such a self-destructive nature as to warrant re-assessment in a secure placement.
C. Waivers	<p>When there is a disagreement as to whether any of the above criteria are met or when the above criteria are clearly not met but circumstances indicate that a secure placement may possibly be in the youth's best interest, exceptions may be granted through a waiver:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The regional resource management staff will contact the youth development center's classification unit to request approval for the youth's placement in a youth development center for assessment.2. The regional resource manager will submit in writing the nature of the circumstances that need to be considered and what resource was considered prior to the waiver request.3. If the youth development center denies the waiver the regional resource manager may request a review by the central office population committee. The committee will respond to the request for a review within twenty-four (24) hours. The population committee may request additional information if necessary to make an informed decision. If additional information is requested a final decision will be made within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt.4. The regional resource manager has a final level of appeal in the event that a youth is not accepted for placement in a YDC. The regional resource manager may ask that the Executive Director of Juvenile Justice Programs or his/her designee review the case. The decision of the Executive Director or his/her designee is final.